

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹ mailed on May 24, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16, 18, 19, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuchida, U.S. Patent Number 5,193,089 ("Tsuchida"), and objected to claims 17 and 20. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and the objection for the following reasons.

Rejection of Claims 1-16, 18, 19, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-16, 18, 19, and 21-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuchida. Applicant notes that claims 1-16 and 23-25 have been cancelled by this Amendment and thus the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicant further notes that claim 17, which the Examiner objected to as being dependent from rejected base claims, but stated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim 13 and intervening claim 14. Accordingly, amended claim 17 should be allowed. Furthermore, claims 18-22 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable base claim 17.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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